Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088933 ORIGIN EPAE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /018 R

DRAFTED BY EPA/A-106:SVRASTONIS:KCG APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:CLMCCLELLAND EPA/A-106:DTOAKLEY OES/APT/BMP:ASCHAPMAN NEA/PAB:MBERRY (INFO)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TPHY, OSCI, PK

SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF EPA SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS (SAO) PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN

1. THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM EPA TO DR. Z. A. HASHMI OF THE PAKISTAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOLLO'S (ORIGINAL BEING AIR POUCHED):

BEGIN TEXT: "DEAR DR. HASHMI: WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE U.S. EMBASSY THAT THE PAKISTAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION WILL BE THE CENTRAL FOCAL POINT FOR SPONSORING AND OVERSEEING THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH PROJECTS FINANCED BY EPA FROM ITS SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS (SAO) PL-480 FUNDS. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THIS DEVELOPMENT AND LOOK FORWARD TO IMPROVED COORDINATION AND TIMELY APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS.

SINCE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, THAT PSF WILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHANNELLING FUNDS FOR PROJECTS, APPROVING CERTAIN POSITIONS, AND MONITORING PROGRESS OF THE PROJECTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A NEW APPROACH TO FUNDING PROJECTS WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT YOUR NEW AUTHORITY. INSTEAD OF FUNDING EACH PROJECT SEPARATELY, AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A "BLOCK" GRANT OR LUMP SUM GRANT TO PSF FOR THE CONDUCT OF S,ECIFIC TASKS WHICH

UP TO NOW HAVE BEEN LISTED AS SEPARATE PROJECT PROPOSALS. ,SF WOULD MANAGE THE DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI, THE KDA, PCSIR OR OTHER APPROPRIATE RESEARCH INSTITUTES. PART OF THIS BLOCK GRANT COULD BE USED TO ESTABLISH WITHIN PSF AN OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES. THE ATTACHED LIST SHOWS THE PROJECTS WHICH MIGHT BE REGARDED AS SPECIFIC TASKS UNDER A "BLOCK" GRANT ARRANGEMENT.

AS YOU KNOW, EPA HAS EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT TO DEVELOP MEANINGFUL COOPERATION WITH PAKISTANI RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE YEARS. BECAUSE OF THE RATHER SLOW PROGRESS TO DATE, WE ARE FINDING IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY EPA'S CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE THAT OUR PROPOSAL, IF ACCEPTED, WILL HELP ACCELERATE THE FUNDING OF MEANINGFUL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS, SO THAT EPA COULD CONTINUE ACTIVITY IN THE SAO PROGRAM IN PAKISTAN.

IN VIEW OF THE LIMITED TIME LEFT TO FUND NEW PROJECTS DURING THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONSIDERED RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL BY APRIL 10. PLEASE PROVIDE THE TEXT OF YOUR RESPONSE TO THE U.S. EMBASSY--WE WILL THEN BE INFORMED QUICKLY BY TELEGRAM. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURUSING THIS PROPOSAL FURTHER, WE WILL SEND AN EPA EXPERT TO ISLAMABAD TO NEGOTIATE DETAILS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. SINCERELY YOURS, THOMAS J. LEPINE, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES." END TEXT.

- 2. REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE DR. HASHMI WITH TEXT IN PARA.

 1. THE PROPOSED NEW APPROACH TO FUNDING RESEARCH PROJECTS FROM EPA'S PL-480 FUNDS, REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO POSITIVELY UTILIZE THE NEW ROLE OF PSF IN OVERSEEING PROJECTS, CHANNELLING FUNDS, ETC. EXPECTED BENEFITS INCLUDE A REDUCED STRESS ON EPA RESOURCES AND ONE CENTRAL CONTACT IN PAKISTAN.
- 3. FYI: EPA HAS EXPERIENCED LARGE CARRYOVERS OF SAO APPROPRIATIONS OVER THE PAST FISCAL YEARS. IF THIS CONTINUES, DUE IN PART TO LACK OF SUCCESS IN FUNDING NEW PROJECTS IN PAKISTAN, EPA ANTICIPATES SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING EFFORTS TO CONTINUE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMMING WITH PAKISTANI INSTITUTIONS.
- 4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO IMPRESS UPON DR. HASHMI THE NEED FOR A QUICK-CONSIDERED RESPONSE. PLEASE FORWARD TEXT OF DR. HASHMI'S RESPONSE UPON RECEIPT BY PRIORITY CABLE. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE GREATLY APPRECIATED. VANCE

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